



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 25, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All commercial networks led with reports that a married couple was arrested in Osaka today for continuing to receive child allowances even though their 4-year-old son has been missing for three years. NHK led with a follow-up report on the former SDF officer who committed suicide by setting off explosions in Utsunomiya, Tochigi, on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

SDF's PKO mission to South Sudan to be extended by five months

All networks reported at noon that the GOJ decided today to extend the SDF's PKO mission in South Sudan for another five months until the end of March 2017. The networks said Defense Minister Inada stressed that the five principles required for SDF troops to participate in the peacekeeping operation have been met. Concerning whether to allow the SDF to engage in the armed rescue of foreign peacekeepers if they come under attack, Inada reportedly said the government will make a decision by assessing the training level of the SDF and the overall security situation.

- [Gist of interview with President Duterte](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Duterte nixes idea of military alliance with nation other than U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: During summit with Abe, Duterte should clarify controversial remarks](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Duterte](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SCIENCE

Japan faces criticism at IWC meeting

TBS reported at noon on the International Whaling Commission meeting that began on Monday in Slovenia. Noting that Japan decided to resume its research whaling in the Southern Ocean last December after drastically reducing the number of whales caught even though it was ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to stop research whaling two years ago, the network said Japan was criticized heavily at the onset of the meeting for ignoring the ICJ decision.

- **METI encourages joint research in auto technologies to set global standards** (Nikkei)

SECURITY

GOJ deals with Okinawa and mainland differently in hosting Ospreys

Reporting on Ambassador Kennedy's meeting with Kisarazu Mayor Watanabe at GSDF Camp Kisarazu on Monday, during which the Ambassador is said to have expressed the United States' appreciation to the city for hosting a maintenance facility for MV-22 Ospreys, Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that this and the Defense Ministry's Osprey noise testing at the camp on Monday showed that there is a clear difference between how the GOJ deals with Okinawa and the mainland. The paper wrote that the ministry is giving consideration to the local community because it conducted the noise testing in response to a request from the city. Saying that Ospreys were deployed in Okinawa despite local opposition and without noise testing and that the prefecture had not been notified of the decision to deploy them until a few months before, the paper claimed the GOJ is applying a double standard in dealing with Okinawa and the mainland.

- **Gov't to decide next month whether to assign new tasks to SDF personnel** (Asahi)
- **Okinawa minister Tsuruho presents view on derogatory remarks by Osaka police** (Ryukyu Shimpo)

ECONOMY

TPP minister confident about winning public understanding for TPP

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Ishihara, who commented on public understanding for the TPP legislation by saying: "I've sensed that even among those in the agricultural sector, there are more people than I expected who are interested in exporting their products by capitalizing [on the TPP].... Public interest is gradually growing."

- [Lower House special committee chairman decides schedule for TPP debate by authority](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ruling parties pretend to make concessions on TPP](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Stop political maneuvering and deliberate on TPP](#) (Sankei)
- [Yokohama to finalize negotiations with warehouse operators on Yamashita Pier project](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Gov't to update guidelines for promoting telework](#) (Asahi)
- [Japanese megabanks, DBJ to set up turnaround fund](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Uber embarks on unconventional strategy in Japanese countryside](#) (The Japan Times)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 24](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of legislation bureau's opinion on new government interpretation of Article 9](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ishin chief suggests convening Lower House constitutional commission without DP](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP still sees opposition united front as potential threat after two by-election wins](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Opposition parties need to develop key policy issues for elections](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Despite lower house by-election wins, ruling parties must stay on alert](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP's Nikai positive about a third supplementary budget](#) (Nikkei)
- [Media watchdog slams Tokyo after journalist alleges U.S. military spying](#) (The Japan Times)
- [CCS Suga denies "pressure on news media"](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: : Abe and South Sudan](#) (Akahata)

EDUCATION

Project Taro members invited to Embassy Tokyo

Fuji TV's "TARO," a midnight reality show featuring 15 young Japanese studying dance and music in New York, reported on a reception held at Ambassador Kennedy's residence for the launch of "A Broader View." The show featured two Project Taro members, Masahiro and Ayumu, who were invited to the reception by Ambassador Kennedy. The Ambassador told them: "Project Taro is a great example of the many things you can study in the U.S., including American culture. I'm excited that Japanese students are studying hip hop and American music. Not too many people think of those as subjects of study; that's why I wanted to meet you." The program also showed the Ambassador explaining that study abroad gives you the chance to learn about different customs and also the strengths of your own country. She asked the two Project Taro members to spread the word about their experiences studying in the U.S. They performed for the Ambassador and taught her some dance steps. The program said the Ambassador invited them to a dance party she hopes to host in the future.

TV PROGRAMS

Prices of imported seafood surge

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on surging prices of imported farmed seafood, such as salmon, yellowtail, and shrimp, saying that they have increased by nearly 40% over the last few years due to a worldwide fish boom. Since China, which accounts for more than 30% of fish consumption in the world, has been expanding the scale of its fish farming, international prices for fish meal have doubled over the last decade. The surge in the price of fish meal has reportedly driven some Japanese fish farmers out of business.

